

2010 Annual Report



Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory Council

**Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory Council**

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Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

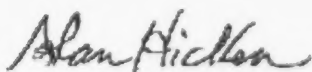
Honourable Janice Sherry
Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Sherry:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act*, I have the honor of presenting the Annual Report of the Environmental Advisory Council.

This report covers the period of January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alan Hicken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alan" being more prominent than the last name "Hicken".

Alan Hicken
Chair

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Introduction

The Environmental Advisory Council is a group of individuals appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to advise the Minister responsible for the environment on environmental matters.

Secretarial services for the Council are provided by staff of the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

Environmental Advisory Council Terms of Reference

Subsection 4(2) of the *Environmental Protection Act* sets out the Council's responsibilities. The Act states that:

The Council shall

- (a) serve as an advisory board to the Minister;***
- (b) perform such functions as may be prescribed by regulations.***

The mandate for the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) as prescribed by the Act is somewhat general in order to be all encompassing. The Council was advised by the Minister that nothing of an environmental nature should be out of bounds for the Council to investigate. To better define the Environmental Advisory Council's mandate, the following terms of reference were approved by the Minister:

1. To advise the Minister responsible for the environment on matters referred to the EAC by the Minister or the public under the *Environmental Protection Act*.
2. To prepare a report annually to the Minister on activities of the EAC.
3. To recognize individuals and groups who work to improve the environment and environmental knowledge.
4. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting opportunities for environmental improvement or protection programs or projects.
5. To recommend to the Minister public education programs or projects.

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6. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting support for community, private and non-government programs and projects.
 7. To advise the Minister on proposed and existing legislation as it relates to environmental protection and enhancement.
 8. To advise the Minister on such matters as the Minister may direct.
 9. To update the Minister on relevant research conducted on the environment.
 10. To promote public awareness of environmental issues.
 11. To make recommendations to the Minister on environmental awards.

General Comments

The Environmental Advisory Council had a busy year in 2010, with a diverse agenda. Council began the year with twelve members with Sherra Profit, Murray Cook, Dr. James Kemp and Elmer MacDonald all completing their terms with the Council. In January, four new members were appointed: Richard Davies, Neil Harphan, Daryl Guignon, and Diane Griffin representing the PEI Federation of Municipalities.

Council reported to the Hon. Richard Brown, Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry. Council held ten regular meetings during 2010. In addition, a number of special meetings of various subcommittees of Council were held, including the Environmental Awards, Science Fair, Biomass Heat, and Conservation Strategies Subcommittees.

Council endeavored to keep abreast of new developments and issues, and was fortunate to have knowledgeable people make presentations on some of these issues. A list of speakers and their topics of discussion is presented in the table on the following page.

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Guests/Speakers</i>	<i>Issues Discussed</i>
February	Jon Hutchinson Manager of Provincial Forest Forest, Fish and Wildlife Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry	PEI Forestry Policy
	Dan McAskill Senior Manager Special Projects Forest, Fish and Wildlife Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry	<i>State of the Environment Report</i>
March	Richard Gill PEI Model Forest Network	Status of Private Wood lots and Harvesting Wood on PEI
April	Mark Victor Special Projects Coordinator Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry	Hydrogen Village Project

May	Fred Cheverie Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation	Funding for Watershed Groups
	Glen Kelly Pisquid River Watershed Group	Hillsborough River Watershed Group
October	Todd Dupuis Atlantic Salmon Federation	PEI Watersheds
December	Ken Mayhew , Forest Information Officer Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry	Environmental Education

Issues

During the year, Council members discussed many environmental issues, some of which are dealt with in more detail. These are listed below:

Biomass Heat

In December of 2009, the Minister asked the Environmental Advisory Council and Public Forest Council to form a joint working group to explore the issue of biomass heat. The subcommittee began meetings in January of 2010, and met throughout the year. At the June 2010 meeting, Alan Hicken gave an overview of the report completed by the Committee - *Biomass Heat on Prince Edward Island Report: A Pathway Forward* and in October 2010, Biomass Heat projects were announced for public buildings.

Updating Conservation Strategy

At the September 2010 Environmental Advisory Council meeting, Minister Richard Brown, tasked the council to begin working on a draft report that would begin the process of updating the 1987 Conservation Strategy for Prince Edward Island.

At the October 2010 meeting, a Conservation Strategy for Prince Edward Island: *Understanding and Protecting our Natural Capital*, Terms of Reference draft was presented to the Council by Dan McAskill. The Council began working immediately on the project and meetings were ongoing as of December 2010.

Other Items

Other topics that were discussed were:

- Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Program
- Biomass Energy
- Buffer Zones
- Climate Change Strategy
- Conservation Strategies
- Construction and Demolition
- Crop Insurance
- Crop Rotation
- Debris on Island Shores
- Estuary Enhancement
- Home Heat Tank Regulations
- Hydrogen Village
- Island Waste Management Corporation
- Model Forests
- Natural Protected Areas
- Office of Energy Efficiency
- Pesticides
- PEI Forestry Policy
- Sewage Disposal Systems Regulations
- Shellfish
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Water Conservation
- Watercourse and Wetland Protection Regulations
- Watershed Groups
- Wind Development
- Woodlots

2010 Science Fair Winners

The Environmental Advisory Council takes an active interest in the annual Provincial Science Fair sponsored by the University of Prince Edward Island. Involvement has included helping judge and award prizes to participants whose projects demonstrate a high level of understanding or innovative approaches to environmental issues. In 2010, the Dr. Leon Loucks Environmental Awards were presented to entries in the junior, intermediate and senior categories with prize money of \$80, \$50 and \$30 awarded to first, second and third place winners respectively. The 2010 winners are as follows:

DR. LEON LOUCKS ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZES

Senior Category:

- No Senior Prizes Awarded this Year -

Intermediate Category:

- 1st Isra Munir, Stonepark Intermediate
- *Sustainable Packaging*
- 2nd Sam Vail, Immanuel Christian
- *Double Generator*
- 3rd Vanessa Gallant, Birchwood Intermediate
- *Energy Scavaging*

Junior Category:

- 1st Garrett MacKay, Southern Kings Consolidated
- *Weight of the Wind*
- 2nd Connor Herget, Alberton Elementary
- *Insulation Types*
- 3rd Tristan Russel MacLean, Glen Stewart Elementary
- *Powered by the Tide*

PEI Environmental Award Winners

Since its inception in 1987, the Environmental Advisory Council has recognized citizens for their special commitment to the environment through the PEI Environmental Awards.

In June, awards were presented by Lieutenant Governor Barbara A. Hagerman, Minister Richard Brown, Environment, Energy and Forestry and Daryl Guigion, Member of the Environmental Advisory Council to the following:

Matthew Bagnall, Jordan McCain and Matio Rogers

The St. Teresa's Environmental School Challenge award for environmental initiatives in an Island school was presented to Matthew Bagnall, Jordan McCain and Matio Rogers, Grade 6 students at Parkside Elementary. Known as the "Recycling Boys" at their school, they took the initiative and leadership by creating a school recycling program.

Matthew, Jordan and Matio started a system to check the school's recycling bins to make sure they were clean, sorted and free of waste. After collecting all the items and checking them once more, they delivered them to the recycling depot. They also created an incentive program to encourage students to properly sort their garbage, by posting proper guidelines in every classroom. Using the money earned from the returned recycling, the classroom who consistently sorts properly got a reward. Their efforts have resulted in more than 95 per cent of the school's recyclables being properly sorted.

Down to Earth decorating and Go Green Office Furniture and Design

Often referred to as the "Go Green Lady" Brenda Delaney, owner of the Down to Earth Decorating and Go Green Office Furniture and Design has shown commitment to the environment, not only in her home but in her work. She strives to reuse, renew, and recover a variety of materials, taking those items and reworking them.

Over the last few years, she has been doing presentations for companies across Prince Edward Island about recycling ideas encouraging people to buy quality used instead of new. Brenda's dedication and hard work have been noticed and her story has been published in a variety of newspapers.

Volunteering for the Summerside Chamber of Commerce and rewarded with their "Volunteer of the Year Award" in 2009, her environmental conscious and ingenuity have impacted all of us in a positive way.

The Hunter Clyde Watershed Group

Phil Pineau has been President of the Hunter Clyde Watershed Group for three years. During his time there, he has concentrated his efforts on improving and protecting the Watershed Group. He has led HCWG to their most successful year in 2009 when 3,500 trees were planted and their first large sediment trap was completed.

Phil has also been a member of the Public Forest Council since 2008. He has provided his workshop space to help construct fifty bat boxes and swallow boxes and has dedicated his time to attend meetings, organize events, manage the work crew and transport trees. Phil has forward-thinking views on watershed management and has contributed to many regional and provincial meetings such as working with the PEI National Park regarding management of streams. He dedicates his time to volunteering in environmental restoration so the province is ecologically sound and healthy.

Appendix A
Environmental Advisory Council
2010 Membership

Alan Hicken, Chair
Montague

Richard Davies
Belle River
(Replaced James Kemp)

Paula MacKinnon, Vice-Chair
Charlottetown

Neil Harpham
Charlottetown
(Replaced Murray Cook)

Bruce MacNeill
Beach Point

Daryl Guignon
Crapaud
(Replaced Elmer MacDonald)

Patrick Birtwistle
Stratford

Sherra Profit
Alberton
(Resigned June 9, 2010)

Bertha Campbell
Kensington

Mark Bernard
Freetown

Diane Griffin (FPEIM)
Stratford
(Federation of PEI
Municipalities,
replaced Mel Gass)

Stephen Moorehead
Stratford